

What We Claim Is:

1. An apparatus for attaching a pad of friction material to a backing plate comprising:

at least one rigid structure attached to said backing plate in at least two places,  
5 said structure operatively arranged to form at least one closed loop with said backing plate.

2. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is operatively arranged to be surrounded by said pad.

3. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is mechanically attached to said backing plate.

4. The apparatus recited in Claim 3 wherein said mechanical attachment method is welding.

5. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is chemically bonded to said backing plate.

6. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is a pair of "U" shaped  
15 loops, each of said loops having a pair of legs, said legs attached to said backing plate.

7. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is fabricated from friction material.

8. A method for attaching a pad of friction material to a backing plate comprising:  
attaching at least one rigid structure to said backing plate in at least two places,  
20 where said structure forms a closed loop with said backing plate; and  
forming said pad on said backing plate.

9. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said pad completely surrounds said structure.

10. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is mechanically attached to said backing plate.

5 11. The apparatus recited in Claim 10 wherein said mechanical attachment method is welding.

12. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is chemically bonded to said backing plate.

13. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is a pair of "U" shaped loops, each of said loops having a pair of legs, said legs attached to said backing plate.

14. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is fabricated from friction material.

15. An apparatus for holding a pad, comprising:  
a backing plate; and,

15 at least one rigid closed loop structure emanating from and fixedly secured to said backing plate.

16. The apparatus recited in Claim 15 wherein said pad is a brake pad.

17. The apparatus recited in Claim 15 wherein said pad is a clutch pad.

18. An article of manufacture comprising:  
a backing plate;  
at least one rigid closed loop structure emanating from and fixedly secured to said  
backing plate; and

5 a pad of friction material at least partially surrounding said structure.

19. The article recited in Claim 18 wherein said pad is a disc brake pad.

20. The article recited in Claim 18 wherein said pad is a drum brake pad.

21. The article recited in Claim 18 wherein said pad is a clutch pad.